

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 USIA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CAB-02

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P R 131315Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2957

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, IR

SUBJ: BELL HELICOPTER IRAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: TEHRAN 7737

1. SITUATION AT MOMENT IS THAT 140 BELL HELICOPTER IRAN PILOTS, HAVING TAKEN NO ACTION IN RESPONSE TO LETTERS OF TERMINATION DELIVERED TO THEM BY COMPANY AUGUST 12 WHICH ALLOWED TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GRACE PERIOD FOR RECONSIDERATION (THIS PERIOD EXPIRED AT 0800 AUGUST 13) ARE BEING PROCESSED FOR SEPARATION. AMCONSUL TRAVELING TO ISFAHAN AUGUST 14 AND WE ANTICIPATE QUESTIONS FROM DISCHARGED PILOTS REGARDING REPATRIATION LOANS FOR TRAVEL TO U.S. WHILE BELL, UNDER CONTRACT AGREEMENT, WILL PROVIDE FARE HOME FOR THOSE WITH MORE THAN ONE YEAR SERVICE IN IRAN, MANY OF THOSE DISCHARGED HAVE LESS THAN ONE YEAR IN COUNTRY. FOR THOSE INTERESTED, AMCONSUL WILL EXPLAIN CONDITIONS TO BE MET BEFORE APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT LOAN, STRESSING DESTITUTION FACTOR, NECESSITY OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS, AND NECESSITY OF DETERMINING UNAVAILABILITY OF OTHER EMPLOYMENT HERE.

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2. ALTHOUGH BELL IS PROCESSING TERMINATIONS, COMPANY SPOKESMAN STATES THAT RE-APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM THOSE DISCHARGED, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, WOULD BE SYMPATHETICALLY VIEWED. ON SURFACE, THIS WOULD SEEM TO NEGATE UNAVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT PROVISION. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM PILOT REPS, HOWEVER, THAT RE-HIRED EMPLOYEES WOULD BE OBOIGED TO SIGN SOME FORM OF COMPANY LOYALTY OATH. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET VIWED RE-EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AND IS THUS UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT OVERLY RESTRICTIVE CLAUSES MIGHT LEAD TO NON-ACCEPTANCE ON PART OF EMPLOYEES.

3. FOLLOWING MEETING AUGUST 11 AT EMBASSY BETWEEN PILOTS REPS AND EMBASSY LABOR REPORTING OFFICER(SEE REFTEL), PILOT REPS DID MEET WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN ON MORNING OF AUGUST 12. WE UNDERSTAND GENERAL TOUFANIAN CONFIRMED DIRECTLY TO THEM GOI POLICY AGAINST FORMATION OF FOREIGN UNIONS IN IRAN. PILOT REPS RETURNED TO ISFAHAN LATE SAME DAY AND WERE TO HAVE ADDRESSED MEETING OF PILOTS TO REPORT ON CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY AND TOUFANIAN. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON CONTENT OF THERI REPORT OR PILOT REACTION EXCEPT FACT THAT 140 PILOTS HAVE APPARENTLY CONTINUED TO ACCEPT DISMISSAL.

4. AMCONSUL, IN TRIP TO ISFAHAN THURSDAY, WILL ALSO HANDCARRY EMBASSY'S LETTER OF RESPONSE TO A LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR DATED JULY 23 FROM MR. JOHN J. MCCAULEY, BELL PILOT WHO SIGNED HIS LETTER PRESIDENT, LOCAL 1001 PHPA(PROFESSIONAL HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION). LETTER WRITTEN BY AMCONSUL ON BEHALF OF AMBASSADOR AND ADDRESSED TO MCCAULEY BY NAME AND ADDRESS ONLY STATES EMBASSY'S NEUTRAL POSITION ON MANAGEMENT-LABOR DISPUTES INVOLVING AMERICANS AND EXPLAINS THAT MCCAULEY'S SUGGESTION THAT EMBASSY REQUEST COMPANY MEET WITH PILOT REPS FOR PURPOSE OF RECONGINZING ASSOCIATION IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO THE STATED NEUTRAL EMBASSY ROLE.

HELMS

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Message Attributes

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